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SOMERVILLE – Gov. Don Sundquist today announced the grand opening of the Fayette County Career Center, calling on employers and workers to utilize the comprehensive employment centers.

“These centers are where people connect with jobs and employers find qualified workers,” Sundquist announced. “The centers are the cornerstone of our Workforce Development initiative with the goal of making Tennessee’s labor force the best in the nation.”

Labor and Workforce Development Deputy Commissioner Walter Butler was joined in ribbon cutting ceremonies by Department of Human Services District Administrator Onslow Davis, Fayette County Mayor Jim Voss, Somerville Mayor Bob Morris, and local Workforce Investment Board members.

“The center will broaden our ability to bring employers and job seekers in this community together while offering a wide range of services,” Deputy Commissioner Butler explained. “In the past, employment efforts have been too scattered and have too often left out the employer’s needs. The Tennessee Career Center System is changing that and will provide one central place to meet employment needs. There are now 14 full-service centers with affiliate sites all across the state to meet the workforce development needs of our customers.”

Jim Voss, Fayette County Mayor, said, “The opening of the Fayette County Career Center has provided a unique opportunity for agencies meeting the needs of job seekers and employers in the area to provide their services in one convenient location.”

The center focuses on all types of workers, from the employee looking for a new job, just graduating from college, needing assessment or requiring additional training, to the worker looking for a promotion. At the Career Center, businesses and employers can advertise job openings, recruit qualified personnel, manage on-site interviews, have applicants pre-screened, receive information on available tax credits and other incentives, and gain speedy access to key wage data and labor market information-all with individualized customer service of the Career Center specialists.

Elaine Sanford, local Workforce Investment Board Chairman, noted how well the Center addresses the workforce development needs of the community. “The Career Center will serve as

a central point in meeting the needs of local employers and job seekers and serve as a key resource to businesses in the area to obtain good, quality employees.”

NOTE: Media coverage is invited.

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